

**CCEMS
OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE 100-52
PRONOUNCING DEATH ON A SCENE AND RELEASING THE BODY**

I. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To allow for standardized guidelines for CCEMS supervisors to pronounce Death at a scene.
- 1.2 To expedite releasing a body to the funeral home.
- 1.3 To minimize CCEMS crews being tied up for extended periods of time due to there being an issue with notification of the coroner or PCP.

II. POLICY

- 2.1 Upon determination of death of a patient it will be the responsibility of the senior EMT or Paramedic to contact the responding Supervisor, OR request a supervisor to respond to the scene.
- 2.2 Once the senior CCEMS on scene personnel contacts LEO/CCSO to advise of the death of a patient then the crew should begin gathering information for the supervisor to notify either the patients PCP or the coroner.
 - 2.2.1 If the death was expected then the crew / Supervisor will gather this info and will assist in contacting the PCP to sign the death certificate. The CCSO will be notified and the body can be removed to the funeral home of the family's choice.
 - 2.2.2 In the event of an expected death and Hospice is involved it will be the responsibility of Hospice to make all notifications. Once Hospice has assumed control it will no longer be our patient. Hospice must accept control via phone or in person before we are released from the scene.
 - 2.2.3 There are two local Hospice services, Community Hospice and Interim Hospice.
 - 2.2.3.1 The phone number for Community Hospice is (330) 343-7605. Community took over the original Hospice of Coshocton County and operates the Truman House.
 - 2.2.3.2 The phone number for Interim Hospice is (740) 623-2331. Jay Olinger is our contact for the local Interim branch. This phone number may go to voice mail after hours and be answered by a service who will direct the call to the on-call RN.
 - 2.2.4 All unexpected in home deaths will be referred to the Coroner's office via the CCSO. As with any unusual occurrence have LEO come to the scene to determine if the Coroner's presence is warranted. If they determine the scene needs held then the crew will be guided by the deputy on scene. Otherwise if cleared by CCSO then the crew's will go back in service.
 - 2.2.5 Deaths in Extended/Assisted living facilities should be treated as any other home death. Following the guideline appropriate for the situation

- 2.2.6 Deaths in nursing homes will also be treated as in home deaths. Always ask the staff for DNR paperwork. CCEMS will accept any signed HB 314 form with an MD or DO signature.
- 2.3 Deaths of suspicious nature or unusual circumstances.
 - 2.3.1 All field pronounced deaths of questionable or potentially questionable nature will be handled as a Coroner's case. LEO/CCSO will be contacted and assume control of the scene. CCEMS will hold the scene until arrival of law enforcement
 - 2.3.2 Upon releasing the scene to LEO/ Deputies you will advise them you will go in service and the coroner's office will arrange for transport to the Morgue at CRMC or another facility in Licking or Stark county.
 - 2.3.3 If we are requested to return to the scene for body removal it will be the decision of the on duty supervisor to approve this transport. The Coroner's office has been made aware that there will be times when this is not possible due to run volume or staffing in general. We will try to accommodate CCSO and the Coroner's office but only as staffing permits.
 - 2.3.4 To contact the Coroner, use the CCSO central dispatch under normal circumstances. This is mainly due to being a recorded line. The majority of the time this will be performed by CCSO but in the rare occurrence you may use this number 740-295-7382 In lieu of making contact with Dr. Virostko M.D. you can call his assistant Sharra Watson LPN investigator at 740-610-3305.
 - 2.3.5 Assisting with contacting the funeral home of the family's choice. It will be the supervisor's job to assist the family with body removal destination. Once contacted you can ascertain if they desire CCEMS to transport or if they will provide transport of the decedent.
 - 2.3.6 After the run is complete the supervisor will then email the following information to Dr. Virostko at douglasvirostko@coshoctoncounty.net
 - 2.3.6.1 Name of decedent
 - 2.3.6.2 Address
 - 2.3.6.3 DOB
 - 2.3.6.4 TOD
 - 2.3.6.5 Destination of decedent i.e. Funeral Home, Morgue at CRMC
 - 2.3.6.6 Family contact for any questions

Director: Todd A. Shroyer

Revised: _____

Effective: 3-30-2020